by tourists including taxis/autos leaving airports alongwith tourists; running of Pre-paid Fare Booths; issue of complaint cards to passengers availing taxi facility at the airports; launching of a drive to verify the character and antecedents of taxi drivers operating at Indira Gandhi International Airport and issue of Public Service Vehicle Badges to them.

Weapons acquired by terrorist

607. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-East oufits *viz* ULFA and NDFB are acquiring large number of sophisticated weapons of foreign origin through Bangladesh whereas our police force are provided with only ordinary equipment; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for the Police modernization in North-East and the measures taken to stop the supply of weapons to these rebels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Repots indicate that United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and other militant outfits in the North East have been acquiring sophisticated weapons of foreign origin through Bangladesh. It is, however, not correct to say that firepower available with State Police/Central Police Organizations is no match to weaponry held by militants.

(b) The Government is implementing a.scheme for modernization of State Police Forces to equip them with sophisticated weapons/equipments/ bulletproof vehicles to deal with the militancy in the States. The Government has sensitized Border Guarding Forces (BGF) and adopted various measures to check the supply of illegal arms into India. The Government has also taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh at various fora.